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**MAYOR REDD & FIRE CHIEF HARPER OFFICIALLY DEDICATE AND
“CHRISTEN” CAMDEN’S NEW FIRE RESCUE BOAT**

New Rescue Boat Named In Memory of Camden Firefighter George Jackson

CAMDEN – Mayor Dana L. Redd, joined by Congressman Andrews, Camden Fire Chief Michael Harper and the family of firefighter George Jackson, dedicated and christened the Fire Department’s new fire rescue boat on Saturday, December 17, 2011. The new fire rescue vessel was acquired through a FEMA Homeland Security/Port Security grant fund.

“Naming our new fire rescue boat in memory of Fireman George Jackson truly is a testament of his 23 years of dedicated and committed service to the City of Camden,” Mayor Redd said. “The City of Camden was fortunate to have a distinguished fireman like George and from now on, his name and service to our City will never be forgotten. Thanks Senators Menendez and Lautenberg and Congressman Andrews, the City was able to obtain much needed federal this funding to acquire our own fire rescue boat that will not only service our neighborhoods, but any other municipality in need of our services.”

“This federal investment will not only help Camden’s first responders and law enforcement respond to a multitude of man-made and natural hazards, it also gives us a state-of-the-art vessel to serve as a local and regional resource for the Delaware River, Delaware Bay and up to 50 nautical miles off-shore,” said Senator Menendez. “Ensuring that our communities have the funds they need to be equipped with the proper tools to keep our children and families safe, has been and will continue to be my number one priority.”

“We will never have the resources to bring our level of police and fire protection to where we need it to be if we don’t have businesses and jobs, we will never have businesses and jobs if we don’t have a strong waterfront, and we will never have a strong waterfront if it is unsafe to do business or visit here,” said Congressman Andrews. “It is with great respect and honor that we dedicate this boat in the name of George M. Jackson who sacrificed his life for that cause.”

The new fire rescue boat was named after George Malcolm Jackson. Mr. Jackson was born on February 21, 1939. While fighting a fire on Sunday, October 21, 1990, he was tragically injured in the line of duty after 23 years of service. On March 7, 2006, he peacefully succumbed to those injuries.

(more)

The “George M. Jackson” is a one of a kind, state-of-the-art, 50 foot Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) fire/rescue vessel capable of responding to a multitude of incidents including natural disasters, catastrophic and simple emergencies as well as incidents involving terrorism. The vessel is jet driven, powered by triple C-13, 750 HP Iveco Diesel Engines and triple Hamilton 364 Jets that can achieve speeds over 43 knots. The jet concept allows for outstanding maneuverability and allows for safe, shallow draft operations.

The vessel is able to pump over 11,000 gallons of water per minute utilizing triple Hale Fire Pumps. The navigation and communication suite are the latest in technology and has been designed to be easily upgraded to meet the dynamic and rapidly evolving nature of the industry. In addition to the vessels Command and Control platform capabilities, it can support full dive rescue and recovery operations, hazardous material mitigation, firefighting foam application, FLIR Thermal Imaging for Search & Rescue, an ice belt and reinforced hull for winter operations, a decontamination chamber, and a pressure sealed cabin. The vessel will serve as a local and regional multi-mission, all hazards resource covering a vast geographic range, primarily serving the Delaware River, Delaware Bay and up to 50 nautical miles off-shore.

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